GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4114
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Audit of Water Bodies
Reddy Shri J.C. Divakar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to check illegal encroachments of river beds and lakes for the conservation of water bodies in the country; and

(b) the measures being taken to conduct audit of water bodies to assess the damage caused due to such encroachments and to look into such issues for awarding stringent penalty on encroachers in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) Works related to water resources development & management are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies etc.

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation conducts minor irrigation census. As per the 4th Minor Irrigation Census, about 80128 water bodies are not in use because of encroachments, urbanization, polluted water, non-availability of water due to less and erratic rainfall, siltation, etc.

Water bodies included under the RRR of Water Bodies scheme are encroachment free. However, considering the importance of water bodies for socio-economic development and sustainable water security to the local population, Secretary (MoWR, RD & GR) vide letter dated 26.02.2016 requested State Governments to take necessary steps for keeping all the water bodies encroachment free throughout the country. Further, Secretary (WR, RD & GR) vide letter dated 07.11.2016 requested the State Governments to take appropriate action in respect of inclusion of water bodies in land records, inclusion of water bodies as integral part of town planning process, strict action for the encroachers, etc. Further, draft guidelines for conservation and protection of water bodies have been prepared and circulated to the concerned Central Ministries and States/UTs.

In respect of rivers, Model Flood Plain Zoning bill was circulated to States. It aims at no hindrance to natural flow of a river and mitigation of likely damage by floods.

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